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ABSTRACT

This booklet describes the work of teacher leaders. Section 1, "The Teacher Leaders," describes today's teacher leadership. Section 2, "What Is Teacher Leadership?" explains that all teachers have leadership potential, and when teachers lead, principals extend their own capacity, students live in a democratic community of learners, and schools benefit from better decision making. Section 3, "Impediments," examines barriers to teacher leadership (e.g., lack of time and energy and resistant colleagues). Section 4, "Opportunities," discusses means through which some teachers are positively and significantly influencing their schools as leaders (e.g., leading by following, joining the team, and leading by example). Section 5, "The Principal," discusses barriers that some principals pose to leadership, highlighting ways that some principals encourage a culture of leadership (relinquishing power, trusting teachers, empowering teachers, and sharing failures and successes with teachers). Section 6, "Teachers and Principals," explains that the potential residing in teacher leadership to benefit schools and teachers will be realized only when many means exist to acknowledge and value personal and positional authority within the school. Section 7, "A Different Future," discusses what future teacher leaders will need to know and be able to do. (SM)

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